The Maryland Yellowthroat
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"Veery" on a leash. Image Credit: Claire Nemes

Protecting Birds and Cats

I don't remember the season, or even the year. What I remember is the sound of the plastic pet door clattering shut as my roommate's cat, a preternaturally intelligent shorthair named Yoda, slunk into the house with something small and struggling clamped in his jaws. *Not again*, I thought, heart sinking, as I sprung after him. After a moment's struggle he spat out his prize, and I sat back on my heels with a tiny bundle of feathers cradled in the palm of my hand. It was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and it was dying.

I stared at the bird in horror, thoughts racing. *Where was the nearest wildlife rehabilitator? Could I get it there in time?* In the brief minute that I sat trying to come up with a plan, the decision was made for me. Lying on its belly, eyes closed, head twisted unnaturally to one side, the hummingbird took a few shuddering gasps through its open beak. The life that laid in my palm winked out. Though sturdy enough to undertake an arduous migration across the Gulf of Mexico every spring and fall, this hummingbird was no match for the jaws of a cat.

I loved Yoda deeply, but he was a consummate hunter, and this was just the latest in a long line of critters he had slain in the backyard. My roommate had taken the position that the cat couldn't possibly live a fulfilling life unless he was free to roam and, by extension, to kill. We had argued about it constantly. In that moment, with the small body now cooling in my palm, I wished my roommate could've had the experience of watching a life end in his hands — not because I

Continued on page 8...

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Rush for the Thrush

The Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) is a North American bird species with a range stretching from the Pacific region to the northernmost parts of the taiga. "Superficially robin-like," differing by its short tail; dark orange brow; contrasting black auriculars, nape, and crown; and sporting a "calico wing pattern," the male is exotic by comparison (Sibley, 2003). Not since 2006 have Maryland birders enjoyed a visit from such a thrush but, this past winter, that was remedied thanks to12-year-old Zach Stickney, of Leonardtown, Maryland.

Stickney found a male Varied Thrush among a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos in his yard, December 22, 2018. "Although I was surprised, I knew immediately what I was looking at," Stickney recalls. After snapping a photograph of the bird, he and his dad, Chuck, consulted a field guide. Confident that they had a Varied Thrush in their yard, they uploaded the photo to eBird, and asked for feedback due to the rare sighting, "Tim Carney emailed me very quickly to say it was indeed a Varied Thrush." And with Carney's confirmation, the rush for the thrush was on.

Varied Thrush in Maryland

Because these birds are a western species, sightings in Maryland are considered rare. There have been 11 reports of Varied Thrush

Continued on page 11...

Image Credit: H. David Fleischmann

In This Issue

Protecting Birds and Cats	1
Rush for the Thrush	1
Editor's Note	2
President's Corner	2
Volunteers Wanted	5
Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership	7
Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report	10
YMOS News Spring 2019	10
Chapter Chatter	13
Books	15
Calendar	18
Birding	18
Birding	20
Birding	22
Birding	26
Meetings	28
Counts	30
Bird With MOS	31

Editor's Note

I never had the opportunity to meet Bill Thompson III, but that didn't stop me from becoming a follower. I have learned, and continue to learn, so much from him by reading his books, listening to his podcast, and flipping through Bird Watcher's Digest. If you're unfamiliar with Thompson's work, I encourage you to read "A Dozen Things You Can Do to Celebrate Bill Thompson III" written by American Birding Association President, Jeff Gordon. It is a touching tribute and an inspiring read for those who want to learn about and honor the legacy of one of the great birding icons of our time.

Read it here: https://bit.ly/2Pj1J2x

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President's Corner

Insect Declines Worldwide

Many of you may have noticed how one no longer sees as much bug splatter on wind screens or as many moths, beetles and flies fluttering around porch lights as in years gone by. When the fruit trees and the huge mimosa tree bloom in our backyard, they no longer buzz with insects. These are subjective, unquantified observations, but now there is a compelling report that confirms that there have indeed been marked declines in many insect species. A recent publication by Francisco Sanchez-Bayo and Kris Wyckhuys, entitled "Worldwide decline of the entomofauna: A review of its drivers" reports declines in many groups of insect species in Europe, North America and other parts of the globe. It makes for sobering, even alarming, reading. This publication is quoted in a recent edition of the Economist, which summarizes such declines. I have summarized this lengthy article and encourage you to read the original in full.

Although MOS is devoted to birds, we cannot ignore the fate of insect populations since they serve as the food for many groups of birds, as well as performing a multitude of vital ecosystem functions, notably pollination. And insects are a source of delight for their great diversity, wonderful adaptability and, in many cases, their beauty.

Methods used by the authors

The authors searched the online peer-reviewed literature for titles using the key words [insect*] AND [declin*] AND [survey], in order to assemble all the long-term surveys conducted over the last 40 years. They found 653 published reports with most referring to Hymenoptera (55), Diptera (45), Coleoptera (44) and

Lepidoptera (37). The authors selected only those papers showing quantitative changes in insect populations over time, pruning the number of publications down to 73. Most of the papers were from Europe and North America and use data from museum collections to compare historic insect populations with more recent ones.

Conservation status of species used the IUCN classification: vulnerable (>30% decline), endangered (>50% decline), critically endangered (>75% decline). A meta-analysis was conducted on the declines among species and regions using analysis of variance. The presumed drivers (causes) of the declines were identified by the authors of the reports studied/ reviewed.

Results of the study

For the sake of brevity, I will mention only a sample of the studies examined by the meta-analysis and will not go into the Discussion section in any depth.

Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)

Several studies found declines in butterflies and months in Europe. One study found that 19 out of 64 butterfly species had gone extinct from the Flanders region of Belgium since 1834. Habitat loss caused steady decline in 69% of 45 existing species. In the Netherlands 11 of 20 most common and widespread butterfly species had declined in abundance and distribution from 1992 to 2007, but populations in nature reserve(s) remained stable. *Lasiommata megera* (the common wall butterfly) and *Gonepteryx rhamni* (the brimstone) were endangered. A 50-year study in a Swedish nature reserve showed that of the original 269 species of larger butterflies/moths, 45% were declining, 22 were colonizer/pioneer species and 159 were no longer found in 2004.

A comprehensive database assembled by amateur collectors and scientist for the entire British Isles over the period 1970-1999, showed that habitat specialists suffered the greatest declines in distribution. This was a recurring pattern, as were declines in species that had limited flight ranges or produced a single annual brood. Other studies showed that 41 of 54 common species had declined since the 1970s with 6% showing >40% decreases in their ranges. Analysis of data for 50 species showed that specialist species had declined by 34% nationally, while generalists had declined by 12% in England. Seventeen widespread resident species decreased by 58% from 2000 to 2012. It is noteworthy that the steepest declines occurred in farmland treated with neonicotinoid insecticides. Declines were also seen in moths in the UK: of 337 species surveyed between 1968 and 2003, 222 were declining, with a median 10-yr decrease of 12%. Some species suffered greater declines: *Macarua wauarua* (V-moth) declined by 77%, *Graphiphora augar* (double dart moth) and *Dasypolia templi* (brindled ochre) declined by >45%.

Fewer long-term surveys of butterflies were found for the US, but these also showed declines. In Massachusetts, the ranges of 116 species shifted northwards between 1991 and 2010, and 80% of species declined in the southern part of the state. In California, surveys at four sites between 1972 and 2012 showed that the average number of species present was stable at 30 until 1997, but by 2012, the number had dropped to 23. The overall trend showed 23% of species to be disappearing. As land is converted to agricultural use, there is a corresponding increase in the use of insecticides. One class of insecticides, neonicotinoids, is positively correlated with butterfly declines. These systemic insecticides were first used in the state in 1995; butterfly declines began in 1997.

There are fewer records from Asia and these show lesser declines in butterfly numbers. However, in Japan 15% of 240 species are threatened and 80% of grassland species are endangered and two species are in danger of extinction (*Melitaea scotosia* - 98% decline and *Argynnis nerippe* - 95% decline).

Hyemenoptera (bumble bees)

In North America, several big studies have been conducted on bumble bee populations since the middle of the 19th century. Seven of the 14 species found in southern Ontario declined from 1971 to 2006, three increased and three were not found. Decreases in bumble bees in Northern California and southern Oregon were blamed on the pathogenic microsporidian, *Nosema bombi*. Analysis of records from the Illinois Museum of Natural History from 1900 to 2007, determined that of 16 species, eight had declined and four had become extinct in the Midwestern region. Changes in the distributions of eight species were analyzed from historical records from 382 intensive surveys across the USA. This showed that half of the species had lost as much as 96% of their original populations in just the last 30 years, and their geographical ranges have shrunk by 23% to 87%. Similar results were obtained from surveys in Oklahoma (only five of the original 10 species were present in the 21 counties surveyed) and New Hampshire (of the 16 species, nine were declining, including five that are threatened).

Since the 1960s, declines in UK bumble bees have been noted among 7 of 18 species, with four species (*Bombus humilis*, *B. ruderatus*, *B. subterraneus* and *B. sylvarum*) suffering large reductions in their ranges. The greatest declines were in species that were host-plant specialists, notably long-tongued species that forage on clover and other legumes.

In Denmark populations of long-tongued bumble bee species have declined since the 1930s, but short-tongued species have remained stable. Five of the twelve species present in the 1930s have disappeared, and all were long-tongued species. A larger study across Central Europe found that 48 of 60 species had declined over the previous 136 years, of which 30% were threatened and four became extinct. The situation in Sweden is similar, with dramatic declines in abundance of pollinators in red clover fields since 1940, and with the loss of *Bombus distinguenda* from the south of the country.

The picture is depressingly clear: with a few exceptions, bumble bee populations have declined dramatically across Europe and North America. Most of the declines were thought to be due to intensified agriculture.

Other wild bees

A long-term survey of wild bees in Illinois in 1970-1972 revealed a 32% reduction in species compared to 75 years previously; only 59 of 73 prairie-dwelling species and 15 of 27 forest-dwelling species were found. A comparison of data from a thorough long-term study of stingless bees (Megachilidae) conducted in Minnesota from 2010 to 2012 with historical records from 1937, showed that among a subset of 30 species, 11 had declined, 11 were not found and 4 were new species. Declines in wild bees were noted in 23% of the US between 2008 and 2013, mainly in areas where grain production had almost doubled over that time period. Increases were noted in only 10% of the country, where cropland had been converted to shrub lands or had been abandoned. Data from a study of the interactions between 109 pollinator bees and their host plants in 26 forests in Illinois were compared with historical records from the late 1800s and the early 1970s. Only 24 of the original pollinator-plant interactions remained. Losses were most marked among specialist species.

Historical data on other wild bees from 10-km grids showed a 52% decline in UK and 67% in the Netherlands after 1980. Declines were seen in univoltine and dietary and habitat specialist species, as well as those which were sedentary. Solitary bees showed the greatest declines.

Declines in wild bees have also been recorded in the tropics. A 12-year study in two Atlantic forest reserves in Brazil of 24 orchid bees (Apidae: Euglossina) revealed declines in 63% of species. Routine surveys of wild bees in dry forest along a highway in Costa Rica from 1972 to 2004, showed a 60% decline in species up to 1996, which seemed to be associated with increased urban sprawl. However, three species increased, probably due to the addition of flowering plants which accompanied the new housing.

Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*)

The decline in honey bee colonies in the US began soon after the advent of DDT use in the late 1940s and has continued ever since. New and more diverse causes include: parasites (*Varroa destructor* [mites]) and pathogens (*Nosema apis*), lack of genetic variability, the stress from seasonal movement of hives by commercial bee-keepers, pesticides, the lack of food for bees in agricultural monocultures, and the harsher weather of recent decades. Colony collapse disorder (CCD) is probably due to the synergistic interaction of parasites, pathogens, insecticides and other stressors. Fully two thirds of American beekeepers lose 40% of their bees every year, while European beekeepers lose 30%. The insecticides fipronil and the neonicotinoids are believed to be especially injurious to honey bees; apart from outright lethality, they have subtler effects at lower doses, such as suppression of the bees' immune system and impaired reproduction.

Coleoptera (beetles)

Carabidae (ground beetles)

Thirty-four percent of 419 species of carabid, studied in 10-km blocks in Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium and Denmark, declined from 1950 to 1980. Dramatic declines were seen in 49 of 68 species of ground beetles studied in UK at 11 sites, while 16 species were stable or increased. Twelve species of large carabids are endangered in New Zealand and 36 are declining.

Coccinellidae (lady bugs)

A review of 62 US historical data sets from 1914 to 2004 on coccinellids that feed upon aphids revealed that their diversity and population sizes were stable until 1986, after which there was a dramatic decline in the native species, impacting 68% of the native species over the next 20 years. Two or more previously common species became rare or disappeared completely. Concurrently 22 species of coccinellid were introduced and two, *Harmonia axyridis* and *Coccinella septempunctata,* have displaced native species.

Dung beetles

The three groups of dung beetles (rollers [Scarabainae], tunnellers [Geotrupidae and Scarabidae], and dwellers [Aphodiidae] play an important role in disposing of and recycling the dung of large animals. Records from Spain show that most species declined after 1950, with nine species becoming 28% to 7% less abundant. Records from Italy for 11 species showed a 30% reduction in abundance and distribution over the entire 20th century for nine of these species. Large declines began in the 1960s, increased in the 1970s and became widespread in the 1980s. In France, a 1996 survey located only 11 of the 72 species known to be previously present.

Saproxylic beetles

Beetles, such as the cerambycids, feed upon dead and dying wood and are important in recycling timber in natural ecosystems. Data from Europe showed that at least 61 species are declining, or their ranges are shrinking, while nine are increasing. Two endemic species, the cerambyicid, *Glaphyra basetti* and the Euchhirid *Propomarcus, cyripacus*, are critically endangered. The only long-term study is upon cerambycids from Sweden on 118 species originally known to be present. The data showed mixed trends, with approximately 50% remaining stable, 26 species declining significantly, 32 increasing and 5-10 species presumed to be extinct.

Hemiptera (true bugs)

Only one study was found on planthoppers and leafhoppers. This was in Germany and involved a comparison of historical sweep-net data (1963-1967) and more recent data (2008-2010). The data revealed that, although species richness did not change, species composition did change with 14 species declining (largely specialists) and nine increasing (largely generalists). One species (Zyginidia scutellaris) became extremely common; it is now characteristic of acidic grasslands.

Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets and similar)

Similarly, only one long term study was found on grasshoppers and crickets and it was conducted at the same sites as the planthopper and leafhopper study referred to above. No biodiversity changes were seen in the protected grasslands which were surveyed over 40 years. The only

Continued on page 6...

Volunteers Wanted

MOS is an organization that relies on members to volunteer their time and energy. There are several open positions available.

Breeding Bird Atlas

We are planning for the next Breeding Bird Atlas, beginning in 2020 and ending in 2024. A committee is being formed, but we need more members, including a chair. No experience necessary!

Chair for 2020 MOS Convention

Good organizational and inter-personal skills, and familiarity with standard software (Word, Excel, Google Drive) required. Birding skills and familiarity with MOS preferred, but not essential.

Scholarship Committee Chair

Anna Urciolo has run the scholarships program with charm and diligence. She now wants to hand over this position to a successor. Anna will be happy to explain what is involved in this position to anyone who is interested.

Contact Robin Todd at robintodd1948@gmail.com or 410-491-5333

Maryland Ornithological Society
Membership Registration Form

The MOS membership year begins September 1

Join one of our 15 state chapters via mdbirds.org/join/chapters/ or send in this form to become a member-at-large.

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone ( ) _____ - _____

Work Phone ( ) _____ - _____

Dues category (Check One)

Individual $20__ Household $25__ Junior $5__ Sustaining $50__ Life $1,000__

Amount enclosed $ _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive the MOS bi-monthly publication *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail or view from the MOS website.

I would like to receive *The Maryland Yellowthroat* via mail: **YES / NO**

Please make your check payable to the **Maryland Ornithological Society**, or **MOS**, and mail it with this completed form to the address below. Thank you for joining MOS!

MOS Treasurer
Maryland Ornithological Society
PO Box 105, Monrovia, MD 21770-0105

The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) membership dues are not considered to be substantial, as determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, members can claim a tax deductible charitable contribution for the full amount of their membership dues. MOS does not release membership lists to any other organization. MOS only uses it for communication with its members.

2019 MOS Convention Field Trip Leaders Needed

The next MOS convention will be held May 31 - June 2, 2019 at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. We have started organizing the convention and are looking for MOS members to lead field trips. Field trip locations are being determined now based on previous convention sites and include: Andelot Farm, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Chesapeake Farms, Eastern Neck NWR, Libby's Nature Trail, Millington WMA, North and South, Pickering Creek Environmental Center, Royal Swan Farm, St. Paul's Church and Millpond, Shehan Audubon Sanctuary, Tuckahoe State Park, Sassafras NRMA, and Chino Farms.

If you are interested in supporting next year's convention as a trip leader, please send your contact information - **name, email address, and phone number** - to Jim Rapp, dlitedirector@comcast.net ASAP. Indicate which half days you can participate (Friday PM, Saturday AM and/or PM, and/or Sunday AM), any particular location(s), and how many trips you would like to lead. If there are other potential sites not listed above, please provide those locations to me and we will investigate including them. If you would like to co-lead, indicate that as well and with whom it would be. Thank you for your consideration and support for MOS.

Meg Harris, Chair MOS Convention 2019

mctharris@gmail.com

continued from page 4...

changes were a sudden decline in bare soil species and increases in two generalist species.

Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies)

In the US, the historical (1914 and 1915) data on dragonflies and damsel flies from 45 sites in California and Nevada were compared with recent (apparently 2014 and/or 2015) data. Occurrence rates declined for 52 (65%) of species while they increased for 29 species. The report notes that "Two generalist and pollution-tolerant species greatly expanded their range into California and became common… particularly in urban areas." These two species were not found in the historical sampling.

Data from Europe shows that of the 138 species of Odonata, 15% are threatened and two damselfly species and one dragonfly species are critically endangered. In general terms, approximately 25% of species are in decline, 10% are increasing and 50% are stable. Studies in Finland and Japan show similar trends.

Ephemeroptera (mayflies)

Of the 107 species of Ephemeroptera listed for the Czech Republic, 4 have gone extinct, seven are critically endangered, seven are endangered, 16 are vulnerable and 14 are near threatened. A comparison of data from 1955 and 2011 showed changed in species composition but not diversity, with specialist species disappearing and silt-tolerant species appearing. No distribution or status data were found for North America, except for one study on 10 rare species which revealed that four, which were present in the early 20th Century were extinct by the end of that Century.

Other insect declines

Studies are limited on a number of important insect families, but available date show significant declines in cuckoo wasps, ants, flies and stoneflies.

Discussion of results

Sanchaz-Bayo and Wyckhuys list the main drivers for these declines in insects, with habitat change being the most important (49.7%), followed by pollution (25.8%), biological factors (17.6%) and, lastly, climate change (6.9%). Many of the reports noted intensified agriculture as the likely cause, while pesticides (especially neonicotinoids and fipronil) and fertilizers were also blamed in a considerable number of cases. Aquatic insects have been especially hard hit by water pollution. Biological factors include invasive species of plants, insects and mammals; all have been shown to cause declines in indigenous insect populations. Misguided attempts at insect biological control have also resulted in declines of non-target insects (although the authors praise the judicious use of such control methods). Finally, climate change has been implicated in declines in butterflies and bees and reduced the range of certain cold-tolerant dragonflies.

The authors close with recommendations for solutions. These are principally dramatically modifying agriculture practices, such as by reducing pesticide use and allowing or creating refugia for insects. Improving water quality is vital to reverse the declines in aquatic insects.

For those of you who have read this far, my thanks for your attention and apologies for bringing up such a gloomy subject. But awareness allows us to take action, even if it is only avoiding buying neonicotinoid pre-treated exotic potted plants next time you are at the garden store.

Best regards,

Robin G. Todd, President MOS

References

Sanchez-Bayo F. and Wyckhuys K., 2019. 'Worldwide decline of the entomofauna: A review of its drivers'. Biological Conservation Vol 232, Pp. 8-27

https://bit.ly/2thoIRK

Anonymous

"Nothing in the cry of cicadas"

The Economist. March 23rd-29th 2019 Ed., Pp. 71-73.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Project Coordinator for 3rd MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 2020 – 2024
Full time position for ca. 5 1/2 years.
Salaried with benefits
Oversee county coordinators, liaise with Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and other duties.
Needs to be familiar with eBird, knowledgeable about Maryland's birds, and a good communicator.
Approximate start date: July 1, 2019.
For questions or details contact Robin Todd at robintodd1948@gmail.com or 410-491-5333.

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

Regional Bird Symposium to Feature YMOS Keynote Speakers

Following on the heels of the very successful Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium, a regional gathering will raise the bar for youth and ornithology. *Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth* promises to be a model for future events around the country.

The primary mission of this event will be to focus on ornithology and conservation science. The symposium will not focus on birding, bird identification techniques, or listing birds, but instead on cutting-edge technologies being used in avian research and study, careers in ornithology, and how to pursue that focus in either higher education or vocationally. The symposium will also provide opportunities toward understanding and promoting involvement in conservation science initiatives. The goal is to educate and inspire youth to take their passion for birds to a higher level.

While the symposium specifically targets youth and organizations based in the mid-Atlantic region, there are no geographical boundaries for those wishing to attend or support this symposium. Primary states involved are Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and New Jersey. George Radcliffe is coordinating YMOS participation.

The Symposium will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Delaware, featuring a full-day of seminars and keynotes that highlight the symposium's mission. Our Keynote Speaker will be Scott Weidensaul, renowned author, co-founder of Project SNOWstorm, and collaborating ornithologist and bird bander for many current avian research projects. In addition, we have two Youth Keynote speakers, both from the YMOS ranks! Claire Wayner and Patrick Newcombe will share their journeys that took them from birding to activism and conservation action. Sunday, September 29, will be an optional opportunity for attendees and guests to join various field trips, sponsored and led by multiple supporting organizations.

We are proud to have MOS as a Symposium Partner! Visit https://www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org/ for more information and follow the symposium on Facebook (search Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth). The Frontiers in Ornithology symposium is a collaboration of Red Knot Outfitters, Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and Delaware Nature Society.

Chris Eberly, MCBP

Any member is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Do you have a perspective that you would like to share with the birding community? We would like to hear from you:

yellowthroat@mdbirds.org.

...continued from page 1.

wanted another hummingbird to die, but because he needed to understand the consequences of his decision. Yoda caught the bird, but he was not the one who installed the cat door.

About ten years after the hummingbird incident, I am now studying the impacts that free-roaming cats have on bird populations for my Ph.D. But until I became a birder, I hadn't given the topic of free-roaming cats* much thought. Growing up, our family cat had gone outdoors despite some initial halfhearted efforts to keep him inside for his own safety. He was a hunter too. We occasionally were able to intervene and take the victims to a local rehabber, but their prognosis would have been far from rosy: an analysis of 10 years of data from the Wildlife Center of Virginia found that approximately 70% of birds and 80% of mammals admitted to the center after being caught by cats either died or were euthanized due to their injuries (McRuer et al. 2017). Still, we continued to let our cat outside well into his old age. We didn't realize that this same drama is repeated in backyards all over the country, and that the casualties add up.

Cats are problematic for wildlife

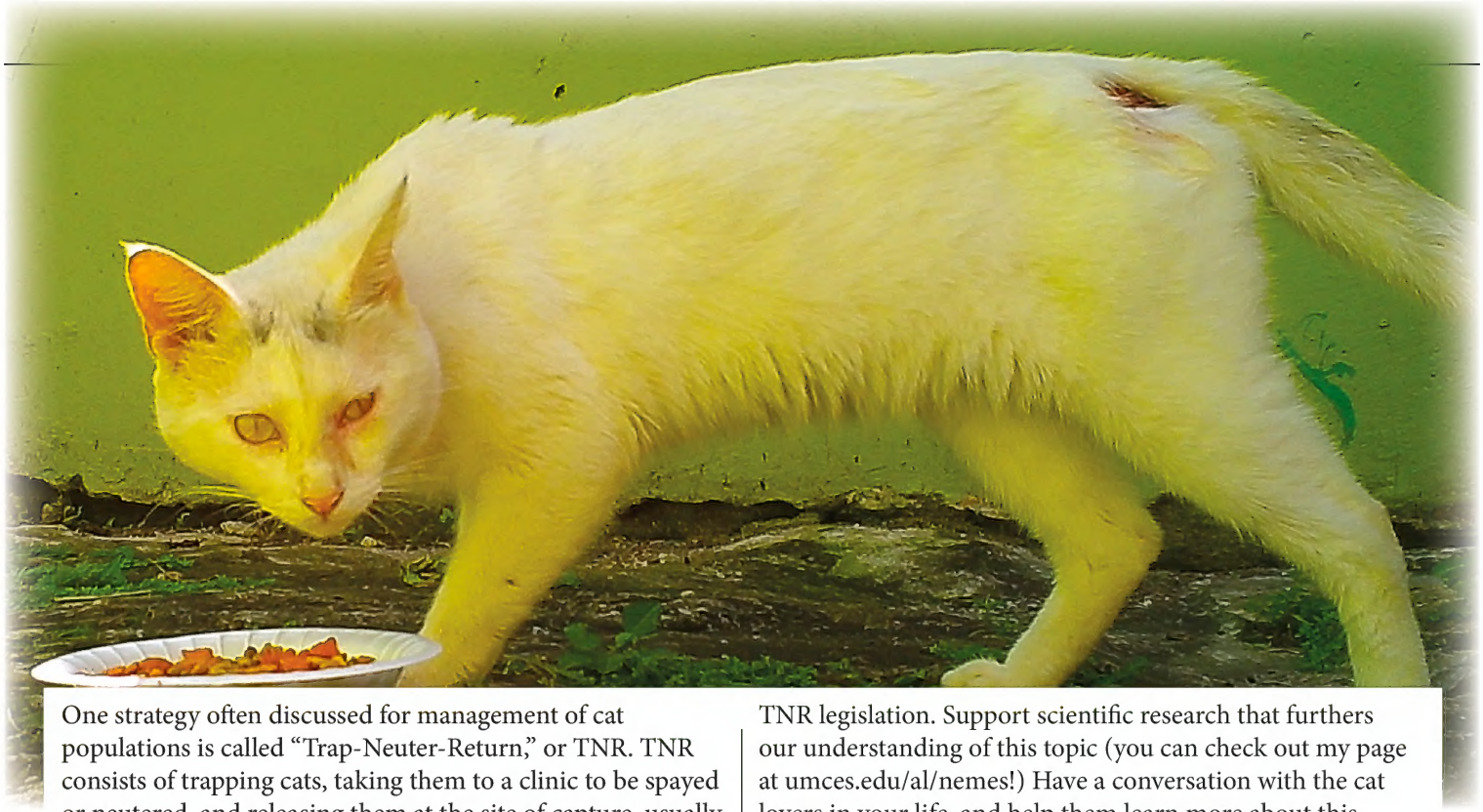
The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is a separate species from its ancestor, the African wildcat (*Felis silvestris lybica*), and would not exist if not for thousands of years of selective breeding by humans. It is thus not native to any ecosystem on earth but has been introduced worldwide. Feeding by humans allows them to reach much higher population densities than any native predator would. This means that a cat is not "part of nature" in the way that a hawk, bobcat, or coyote are part of an ecosystem. One major difference that most cat owners will be familiar with is that cats continue to hunt and kill even when they're well-fed. For some species of wildlife on fragile island ecosystems, the introduction of these invasive predators has been disastrous. Cats have caused or contributed to the extinctions of at least 33 island bird, mammal, and reptile species, and they threaten many more (Medina et al. 2011).

It is not surprising that cats kill wildlife, but the quantity may come as a shock. Cats are estimated to kill between 1.3 – 4.0 billion birds each year in the United States (median estimate: 2.4 billion), and another 100 – 350 million birds annually in Canada (Loss et al. 2013, Blancher 2013). The broad range of mortality estimates is due to the fact that we often don't know the size of the cat population in many areas. This is part of the impetus behind the D.C. Cat Count launched last year (dccatcount.org): we need better estimates of how many free-roaming cats there are in order to determine the magnitude of their impacts, and to decide how to manage them.

Numbers are lacking for many areas outside the continental U.S. as well, even though cat densities in some of these regions may be much higher. My research is focused on understanding the potential impacts of cats in the Neotropics, where bird communities may consist of year-round residents and endemics as well as overwintering migrants that are familiar summer breeders in Maryland. Because many Neotropical migrant populations are declining, it is important for us to understand how such threats affect birds at different life stages and in different parts of their range.

Though I am specifically interested in how free-roaming cats impact birds, my first field season this year also made clear that life for cats on the streets is no picnic, either. I deployed trail cameras throughout the city and outskirts of San Juan, Puerto Rico to examine how cat density varies along an urban gradient. The cats caught on camera were often in poor condition, with open wounds, mange, or eye infections resulting in partial or complete blindness. Many were emaciated, even when they were being fed by people. These are injuries and illnesses that do not, as a general rule, befall indoor cats. The free-roaming lifestyle harms both wildlife and the cats who live it.

Top: Cat in downtown San Juan missing an eye, likely due to untreated conjunctivitis; many other cats in this neighborhood showed signs of eye infection as well. Image Credit: Claire Nemes. Bottom: Male cat in suburban neighborhood with severe neck injury from unknown cause. Image Credit: Claire Nemes.



One strategy often discussed for management of cat populations is called "Trap-Neuter-Return," or TNR. TNR consists of trapping cats, taking them to a clinic to be spayed or neutered, and releasing them at the site of capture, usually with the tip of one ear clipped off to signal that they have been sterilized. Proponents claim that it's the most humane option available and that feral cats live happy, healthy lives on the street (an assertion that I cannot agree with after seeing my trail cam photos). Unfortunately, numerous peer-reviewed studies have found that TNR is not effective at reducing cat populations unless a very high proportion of individuals are sterilized. These high sterilization rates must be maintained over time, which means continuously trapping any new cats that are born, abandoned, or immigrate into the area. Even then it can take many years for the population to slowly shrink, during which time cats in colonies are still able to kill birds and other wildlife, transmit diseases (both amongst themselves and wildlife, as well as to humans), and suffer the types of injuries that I observed in Puerto Rico (Longcore et al. 2009, Lepczyk et al. 2010).

As a scientist, I believe that conservation and management decisions should always be supported by the best available evidence; as both a cat and bird lover, I believe that we need better solutions for cat population management. This begins with more research to understand where and when cat management should be prioritized and to determine how we can improve conservation outcomes for bird populations, as well as minimizing suffering to cats.

Birders can help

If you have a cat, keep it inside or supervise outdoor time. (Leash training may sound ridiculous, but many cats enjoy it!) You can support organizations like the American Bird Conservancy, whose "Cats Indoors" campaign has excellent information and resources. Consider donating to animal welfare organizations that don't practice TNR, and let your representatives know your concerns over proposed pro-TNR legislation. Support scientific research that furthers our understanding of this topic (you can check out my page at umces.edu/al/nemes!) Have a conversation with the cat lovers in your life, and help them learn more about this topic, too.

The good news is that, unlike so many of the immense challenges that birds face — habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, and more — keeping cats indoors is a simple action that directly and immediately benefits birds… and cats!

Claire Nemes

** "Free-roaming" is a term that applies to all "outdoor" cats: owned pet cats that are allowed outdoors, plus unowned ferals or strays that may or may not be acclimated to humans.*

Author's research page: umces.edu/al/nemes

Literature Cited

Blancher 2013: https://bit.ly/2GdpgiP

Lepczyk et al. 2010: https://s.si.edu/2UNvvSk

Longcore et al. 2009: https://bit.ly/2uUS2OJ

Loss et al. 2013: https://go.nature.com/2uVmHLx

McRuer et al. 2017: https://bit.ly/2Z2wUnf

Medina et al. 2011: https://bit.ly/2Gdp579

Additional Reading

American Bird Conservancy's Cats Indoors program: https://bit.ly/2M6hgjI

D.C. Cat Count page: http://www.dccatcount.org/

Smithsonian article that gives a thorough overview of the problem and surrounding controversy: https://bit.ly/2pKewlu

Top: Male cat in downtown San Juan with tail injury and eye problems. Image Credit: Claire Nemes.

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

March 22, 2019

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review package 178. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. No new "state" species were added from this review and the total number of species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC remain at 453 and 341, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL: https://bit.ly/2G3i0o9

MD Records Accepted:

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2018-076] Veterans Memorial Park, Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County. 18-Nov-2018. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2012-011] Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County. 24-Feb-2012 through 26-Feb-2012. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2012-061] Fort Frederick State Park, Big Pool, Washington County. 30-Jun-2012 through 15-Dec-2013. One juvenile.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2017-032] Lake Linganore, New Market, Frederick County. 20-Aug-2016. One bird.

Great Blue Heron (Great White), *Ardea herodias occidentalis* [MD/2018-042] Israel Creek, Frederick, Frederick County. 21-Jun-2018 through 10-Jul-2018. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2014-063] Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 23-Aug-2014. One bird.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2018-058] Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. 26-Sep-2018. One bird.

Other MD/DCRC News

Annual Meeting: The 2019 Annual Meeting of the MD/DCRC was held on Saturday, 23 February 2019. The MD/DCRC Annual Business Report and Annual Meeting Minutes were posted to the MD/DCRC web pages.

Membership: Members completing their voting terms were John Hubbell, Mike Ostrowski, and Andy Wilson. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. The new members elected for three-year terms were Kathy Calvert, Tim Carney, and Clive Harris. We welcome them back to the committee. Matt Hafner was reelected committee Chair and Phil Davis was reelected committee Secretary.

Review List Changes: The only MD/DCRC review list change adopted at the Annual Meeting was to add Franklin's Gull to the DC Review List.

Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

YMOS News Spring 2019

Birdathon

A large group of students from all over Maryland, Delaware, and DC put in over 26 hours in the field on March 16 and 17 in this year's YMOS Birdathon. Heading out before 4 AM Saturday the 16 and wrapping up at 5 PM the next day, they were able to find 131 species from Worcester and Somerset Counties to Kent Island. With only 5 misses from their 100 Must-See list, they ended with a score of 126. The near misses were Snow Geese which rudely all headed north a couple days before the weekend, Great Egret, Barred Owls who remained amazingly silent everywhere, American Pipit, and Brown Creeper which didn't seem to be creeping anywhere we went. Great finds included: Tri-colored Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Common Eider, Great Cormorant, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Merlin, Winter Wren, Purple Finch, Vesper Sparrow, and Cooper's Hawk that had evaded us the last 2 Birdathons.

We wish to thank the many who either donated or pledged to support the youth. The over $5,500 raised will support the YMOS teams at the World Series of Birding and purchase optics and materials needed by the youth.

World Series of Birding

This year YMOS will have 5 teams heading to the World Series of Birding in New Jersey in May. Twenty-two students from Garrett to Talbot County will represent Maryland at this year's competition. Last year's champion Marsh Giggler team will be returning in the high school division. YMOS is also entering a middle school team, an elementary team, and 2 Carbon Free teams who will compete on bicycles. The students, ranging in age from 6 to 18, will scout from 3-5 days prior to the May 11 Big Day. The high school team will be in place at midnight in The Great Swamp and finish 24 hours later in Cape May. The elementary team will compete from 5 AM to 8 PM in southern New Jersey, finding as many species as they can. The Birdathon provides all the funds for these 5 teams to compete.

George Radcliffe, YMOS

Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat*

Reach members interested in your services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information, please contact the Editor: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

...continued from page 1.

Image Credit: Kyle Rambo.

in Maryland since 1958; however, only some of these reports are verifiable and thus accepted. According to the Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DC RC), the Varied Thrush scorecard for Maryland currently stands as:

4 - Accepted (1965-66, 1977, 1987, 2006)

1 - Not Accepted (1989)

2 - Unreviewable (1978, 1980)

1 - Reviewable (1970-71)

1 - Ready (2018-19, this year's bird)

(Note: there are no records prior to 1958 and the committee was established in 1983.)

If this year's sighting of the bird is accepted, it will be the fifth accepted record of a Varied Thrush in Maryland. Phil Davis, Secretary of the MD/DC RC, explains, the committee maintains review lists for Maryland and DC (https://bit.ly/2HR3xPI) that "indicate for which species the committee wishes to receive documentation for official record reviews." The bar for official record acceptance is "quite high," says Davis. Nine voting members review reports which, "can be accepted unanimously on the first round," or they can be voted on three more times, "with only one dissenting vote allowed for acceptance, except for a last (fourth) round which can have two dissenting votes." This is also the process for the addition of new state, "first" species, records to the Maryland and DC lists.

Before the MD/DC RC was formed, five sightings of Varied Thrush were reported. The committee reviewed and accepted two of these reports because they were documented in detail. Davis explains that even though the remaining three reports were cited in ornithological journals, "detailed documentation was either never produced or [it was] never located and provided to the committee." Two were entered into the MD/DCRC database as "Unreviewable" due to the lack of documentation, and one still remains in a "Reviewable" status because it was observed on a Christmas Bird Count and, according to Davis, "the committee still has some hope of, perhaps, locating documentation in someone's archives." The committee's classification process allows for the opportunity "to capture all known information in [the] database and to save all related documentation in [the] data repository for future researchers."

A Flock Descends on Leonardtown

The last Varied Thrush to visit Maryland appeared at a feeder in the yard of a private residence in 2006. Unfortunately, the homeowners were unable to accommodate many visitors, so few were able to experience the bird. "It has been a long time since a Varied Thrush was chaseable in Maryland," says Matt Hafner, Chair of the MD/DC RC. That fact, combined with an increase in active birders, due to eBird and social media, and "the showstopping plumage of a male Varied Thrush," added Hafner, paved the way for this bird "to be a regional celebrity."

According to eBird, over 100 birders saw the most recent thrush, compared to around 20 in 2006. One reason for this increase in views was due the to the hospitality provided to visiting birders by the Stickney family and their neighbors. After reporting the

Image Credit: Kyle Rambo.

thrush and receiving confirmation of identification, the Stickneys were notified of the potential attention that this bird would draw to their community. Therefore, they notified their neighbors, settled on parking and hours of observation and, according to Chuck Stickney, "there was zero negative reaction to the birders by anyone in the neighborhood and we had no instances of uncourteous behavior by any birders. Overall it was a great experience for [us] and our neighbors."

Zach Stickney found the experience of hosting a Varied Thrush amazing because out of any region, state, or county, the Thrush chose his house, a birder's house, to visit. "Perhaps if it chose another house, no one would have ever known that he was here," says Stickney.

Death by Glass

Tragically, Maryland's first Varied Thrush in over 10 years, met its demise by flying into a window. As Kurt Schwarz, Conservation Committee Chair, commented, "its celebrity status could not save it from the fate met by many much more common birds." Schwarz says that "collisions with glass constitute the second greatest source of human-associated mortality for birds," and an estimated one billion birds die annually because of untreated windows. "Many think that if only one or two birds a year are killed by their windows, it's just a drop in the bucket. But multiply that by millions of homes, not to mention office buildings, skyscrapers, etc. and a billion birds per year is soon reached. Studies have shown that the bulk of window kills occur at buildings under five stories, and residences."

The solutions to window kills are effective, easy, and inexpensive. Please visit https://safeskiesmaryland.org and http://www.lightsoutbaltimore.org for more information. Volunteers are available to assist those who want to decrease the amount of birds killed by window collisions. Schwarz encourages the birding community to take an active role in protecting birds by contacting lawmakers, at both the state and federal levels, to let them know that we want bird safe building legislation enacted. There are bills to do just that in both Annapolis, and in the U.S. Congress. The time to act is now.

The Varied Thrush will live on through science at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History bird collection.

Orietta C. Estrada, Editor

Image Credit: Kyle Rambo.

ANNE ARUNDEL

CHAPTER CHATTER

by Jean Wheeler

In February I traveled to Minnesota for the 12th Annual Sax-Zim Bog Winter Birding Festival based in Meadowlands. The festival runs 2 days, with an additional "preview" day. There are 3 different field trips on the 2 festival days, and a field trip to the Bog on the preview day. Each trip had 3 guides, each bus had about 25-30 people.

Dinner and a speaker were featured on the 1st and 2nd evenings. Erik Bruhnke's presentation on the first evening was on "Summer Birding in Sax-Zim Bog," which sounds intriguing.

The weather for the festival was cold, of course, but worthwhile. I saw a couple of Great Gray Owls and several Boreal Chickadees on the 1st day of the festival - those were my 2 target birds. Other lifers included lots of Pine Grosbeaks, 1 Black-billed Magpie, and 60 Bohemian Waxwings. The latter were seen in Two Harbors, MN, on the North Shore (of Lake Superior) field trip. Also spotted were 2 Pine Martens, which were very cute. Lots of snow! Every morning was below zero, but not minus 50; i.e. no polar vortex. No really windy days, no blizzards either. So I lucked out. My big miss was the Northern Hawk Owl, which most festival attendees did see.

Other northern birds that were seen included dozens of Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and Black-capped Chickadees, 1 Northern Shrike, and the whitest Snowy Owl that I've ever seen.

The festival was fine. The guides were very good. All in all, it was an excellent experience. I'm still thawing.

For more information: www.saxzimbirdingfestival.com or https://saxzim.org/ *Dale Murphy*

The Mighty Mekong

With its 698 bird species, one would expect to see a good few as my wife and I travelled some 200 miles upstream in a remote stretch of the Mekong River from Luang Prabang (former capital of Laos) to the Thai border. Not so. Though a traditional wooden river cruiser allowed unobstructed views of its lush banks, we saw only 10 species. Along the waterline was one Grey Heron and Purple Heron (akin to the North American species) both winter visitors, six Great Egrets and a sole Little Egret - residents and migrants. The high-pitched *chiff-chiff-chiff* gave sight of two Wood Sandpipers flitting among some rocks, while overhead twittered the occasional Asian House Martin making their way north. A glorious sight was the White-throated Kingfisher and Green Bee-eater. The former is marked with a dark chestnut head and abdomen contrasting with a white throat and upper breast and brilliant turquoise mantle, wings and tail. Above all, it's the massive fire-red beak that arrests attention. The bee-eater is dressed in a halting green and copper crown and nape, black eye stripe and blue cheek and throat and elongate central tail. We were fortunate to see it catch insects in the air by sorties from an open perch

Pine Marten. Image Credit: Dale Murphy.

We roved the villages of ethnic hill tribes to observe the distillation of "whiskey", weaving and fishing. In one, the shadow of Black Kite crossed our path and we heard the distant call of a Yellow-vented Bulbul. In Luang Prabang the chestnut capped Eurasian Tree Sparrow greeted our dawn along with the gurgling's and whistlings of the yellow billed black-bodied Common Myna.

Of its 701 species 29 are globally threatened and 7 critically endangered. The causes boil down to subsistence hunting, wildlife trade, and wildlife farming. Human use of wildlife in Lao PDR remains high, with ethnic groups using it for food and medicines. In contrast to other Buddhist regions, such as Sri Lanka and neighboring Tibet and Bhutan, people hunt small birds in temples and city parks and non-Buddhist tribes, such as the Hmong, do not eat most wildlife. Clearance of vegetation, commercial logging and the rising application of pesticides pose additional threats.

Some NGOs are helping the government protect wildlife through revision/enforcement of legal statutes, conservation education (government staff and the public) and enhanced management of protected areas. We can but hope they will succeed. *Colin Rees.*

CARROLL COUNTY

The Carroll County Bird Club is organizing its third youth art show and contest. "Wild About Birds – Beauty in Carroll's Backyards" will be open to youth who live and/or attend school in Carroll County.

Entries will be judged by a panel of distinguished experts, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes awarded in each age group. (Kindergarten through 2nd grade, Grades 3-5, Middle School, and High School) Prizes include binoculars, books, bird feeders, art supplies and art lessons.

Any 2D (flat) medium, no larger than 11x14 inches will be accepted. (Original artwork only. No photography at this time.) Artwork may portray anything having to do with bird species that reside in or migrate through Carroll County.

Entries may be dropped off at any branch of the Carroll County Public Library between April 8th and April 25th. Opening and reception will take place at the Eldersburg Branch on May 4th from 2:30pm to 4:30pm. The exhibit will continue there until May 25th.

Brown Pelican. Image Credit: Deb Stewart.

Entry forms will be available at Branches of the Carroll County Public Library or online at www.carrollcountybirdclub.com

Support for this project has been generously provided by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Bowman's Home & Garden, and Studio Kayama.

The previous two shows were very successful. The club views this as a great way to get young people interested in birds. *Don Jewell*

CECIL COUNTY

It was not as if winter wasn't harsh enough here in Maryland this year. Actually it snowed again yesterday and we are into March now. *Kim* and I spent a week in mid February in Yellowstone National Park. Having been there in the summer several times I've always wanted to see the park in the winter. Flying into Bozeman, MT it was -11°F with a wind chill of -22 °F. Fortunately the rest of the week was no where near as bad. That is not counting the two and an half feet of snow dumped on us in four days. We opted for the shuttle bus that operates daily from the Bozeman hotel to the park and avoided having to rent a car and drive ourselves. Our tour was through Yellowstone Forever. Lodging was at Old Faithful in the Snow Lodge which proved toasty and well situated for our exploration of the park. The tours are limited to ten people each as well. Each day consisted of snowshoeing, whether along the rim of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, on the shore Yellowstone Lake or around geyser basins. Though the roads are closed the transportation in all terrain vehicles of massive size made getting around the park easy for the most part. We only got stuck once. It snowed two full days, though not consecutively, where we could barely see anything but once it stopped the landscape was simply enchanting as well as extremely quiet. Wildlife was plentiful, with bison and elk spotted in large numbers. Birdlife was much more limited. With the thermal areas and geyser basins much of the water was not frozen though. Both Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen daily as were Trumpeter Swans and our friends Canada Geese. We had good looks at the American Dipper doing its thing in one of the rivers. Other than a few Ravens and some Clark's Nutcrackers that was about it for the birdlife. There were some Black-billed Magpies but I missed the Rosy Finch that I was hoping to score. All totaled we had 16 species of birds for the trip. We felt fortunate in that we were able to fly out and back with no weather related problems. Yellowstone in the winter is truly a memorable experience, just dress warmly. *Ken Drier*

Horseshoe Crab. Image Credit: Deb Stewart.

HARFORD COUNTY

A birding adventure is filled with opportunities like making new friends, visiting new places, and making memories. *Diane Jones* and I took a trip to Florida as new friends who met through the Harford Bird Club. We traveled to Central Florida February 17 through 24 visiting an area she has birded often over the years. Pam Higginbotham of Georgia, Diane's birding friend and Florida winter resident, joined us and hosted our stay in her home. Diane and Pam had a list of favorite sites and targeted birds.

As soon as we arrived, we drove around Black Point on Merritt Island, the first of several wetlands. Can you ever tire of Roseate Spoonbills? Egrets and herons of every kind?

Waterfowl and warblers? Diane was most excited to share Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland with good reason. We walked among live oak and cypress trees with moss between a river and canals where we observed birds in breeding plumage. We listened to the bellowing of alligators as background to bird song. In Lakeland, we observed a Snail Kite in a beautiful flight display touching down near its nest with the female kite flying in on cue. It was in the same area that a large number of Purple Gallinules revealed themselves one at a time among the water lilies in their regal colors.

Traveling to Joe Overstreet Landing, we learned the history of cattle ranching in Florida. In the pastures, meadowlarks sang for us, and the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher perched on a fence posing long enough for photos. At the landing, Snail Kite soared and dipped into the water lilies plucking their meal, large apple snails. Meanwhile, osprey were busy building a nest.

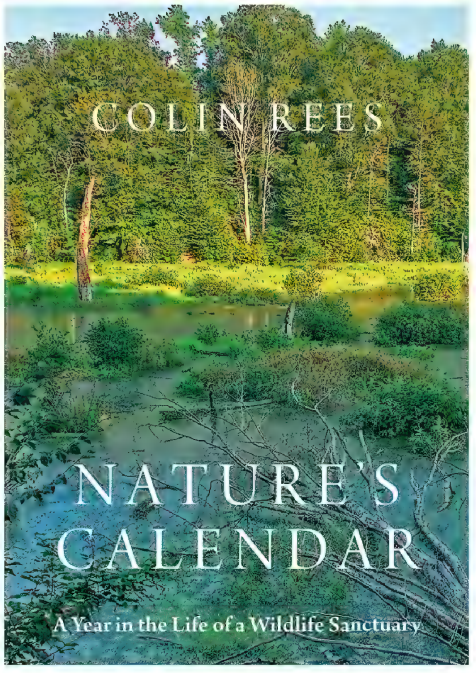
Central Florida is home of the endemic Florida Scrub Jay. We found them waiting for us next to the parking lot of their targeted area.

My friends were disappointed to not see bittern or sora on this trip, but we were surprised by the thousand sanderlings that swarmed the beach where the horseshoe crabs were mating. It was the day after the full moon.

The three of us did more than birdwatch. We were impressed by the HUGE cruise ships departing Port Canaveral canal bigger than imaginable. In contrast, the pelicans, terns and gulls were not impressed. We stood in awe one evening watching the super moon rise over the ocean. An unexpected bonus of the trip was anticipating and watching the night launch of a SpaceX rocket. It was very exciting to see this fiery "bird" take flight. Dipping my feet in the Atlantic Ocean on the pristine national seashore gave me pause to remember once more how fortunate I am to be birdwatching in sunny Florida. We participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Pam did all the data entry as Diane and I helped identify and count birds in her patch of the world.

I am very grateful for the opportunities and experiences that came from birding Central Florida with Diane and Pam. This was certainly a most memorable and successful birding adventure. *Deb Stewart*

Books



A former global biodiversity specialist with the World Bank and faculty member in the Zoology Department at the University of Maryland, lifelong birder and environmentalist Colin Rees is the steering committee chair of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.

Take an enchanting journey through the shifting seasons in a wildlife sanctuary home to wetland, forest, and grassland and supporting an incredible diversity of plants and animals.

Flocks of waterfowl exploding into steely skies above frozen marshland, salamanders creeping across the forest floor to vernal pools, chorusing frogs peeping their ecstasy while warblers crowd budding trees, turtles sunning on floating logs, the ecological engineering of beavers—these are but a few of the sights and sounds marking a year at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and its neighboring landscapes in Southern Maryland.

In an absorbing account of a year in the life of this sanctuary, naturalist Colin Rees invites us to join him as he explores the secrets and wonders of the changing natural world. Alongside the author, we witness spring's avian migrations, quickening of aquatic vegetation, burgeoning of myriad invertebrates, and the assaults of extreme weather conditions. We revel in summertime's proliferation of fish, fowl, and mammals. We become attuned to the shifting climate's impacts on autumnal transitions, and we marvel at amazing feats of biological inventiveness in preparation for winter conditions. Through these visions of the fleeting—and yet enduring—cycles of nature, Rees shares deep insights into the ecological and behavioral dynamics of the natural environment.

Enhanced by more than two dozen color plates, the book touches on a wide range of issues, from microbial diversity, bird banding, and butterfly phenology to genetic diversity and habitat fragmentation. It also examines the challenges of conserving these and other natural features in the face of climate change and development pressures. Thoughtful and lyrical, *Nature's Calendar* speaks to all readers, scientific and lay alike. Fascinating profiles of flora and fauna celebrate the richness and complexity of a unique ecosystem, exploring the entire ecology of this dynamic and delicate area.

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MEMBER PHOTOS

Top: Paul Nistico, member since 1976, came across two King Rails in the marshes along the Oklawaha River. He shares this photograph from Marion County, Florida.

Center: Gene Ricks captured this stellar shot of a Blackpoll Warbler at Soldier's Delight in Baltimore County.

Left: "What I thought was my first sighting of a Baltimore Oriole, turned out to be my first sighting on an American Redstart. The male and female happily sung to each other and hopped around my Cherry tree. A striking bird that I hope to see again, soon." – Judy Granna Anne Arundel County Bird Club.

MEMBER PHOTOS

Top: This pristine shot of a Yellow-throated Warbler was captured by Howard County Bird Club member, Anthony VanSchoor.

Bottom: Kurt Schwarz snapped this photograph of a Common Eider, near adult, in Worcester County. February 22.

Center: "The mid-April shad run at Conowingo Dam enticed up to 200 bald eagles by more than one estimate — more than had been seen there all fall and winter. Even though it's "easy pickin's"" by the dam, eagles are still notorious thieves. Why fish for yourself when you can grab it from a fellow eagle or an osprey? But this fella faced some tricky thieves himself as he sat in a tree noshing. Three black vultures ganged up on him & tried to sneak some juicy morsels from his meal. The eagle kept complaining but never shooed them away so they wangled a few nibbles here & there. Birders and photographers tell me they've never seen anything like that." – Barbara J. Saffir, Harford Bird Club

BIRDING

5/1/19	All day	Birding Susquehanna SP	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Peter Hanan, 301-580-2785 or peter.hanan@icloud.com. Description: A warbler paradise. Also loaded with Baltimore and Orchard Orioles! Bring lunch and comfortable hiking boots. Meet at Millersville P&R at 6 AM or at the Grist Mill parking lot at 7 AM.
5/1/19	8 AM -12 PM	First Wednesday at Fort HcHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. Meet outside of park front gates, and park at lot on left hand side.
5/1/19	7:30 – 10 AM	Trip to Schumaker Pond	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information contact trip leader Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Field trip for migrating and summer resident songbirds. Sturdy shoes recommended for walking on dirt trails. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM.
5/2/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
5/3-5/19	All day	Garrett County Bird Fest	Host: Deep Creek SP. Description: Field trips to birding hot spots in Garrett County. Check out the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center website for schedules and registration at www.discoverycenterdcl.com.
5/4/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Krimgold Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. For more details, contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792. Description: This is a new park at 5355 Woodbine Rd in Sykesville. Looking for whatever we can find.
5/4/19		Pennyfield Lock to Riley's Lock	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Kathy Brown 301-865-1369 or kathybrown07@verizon.net. Description: Look for migrants and our returning warm weather feathered friends.
5/3/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For more information email the leader Paul Woodward at grackling@ATT.NET. Description: We will learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. Geared to new birders but all are welcome. Limit 10. Reservations required.
5/4/19	7 – 11 AM	Birding at Swan Creek	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Stan Arnold, 410-428-7567 or thrushhost@gmail.com. Description: Trip to the now-restricted top birding spot for warblers, shorebirds, ducks, Bobolinks and Little Blue Herons! Wear sturdy shoes as the path is rocky.
5/4/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Susquehanna SP Rock Run	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Trip for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. Bring a picnic lunch. Optional extension to Swan Harbor Farm Park. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd, next to the old mill building.
5/4/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip to Fair Hill NRMA	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Trip leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net. Description: Habitat for ground-nesting birds such as Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Northern Bobwhite. Meeting at North Appleton Parking lot #3 (2895 Appleton Rd).
5/4/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Eleventh Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club. Coordinator Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com or 410-734-4135. Description: Join us for our eleventh anniversary Challenge. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Meet at Rock Run Mill at 6:30 AM for team selections and rules review. Rally celebration at 12 noon.
5/4/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

5/5/19	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Birding at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com. Description: Monthly walk through varied habitat. Meet at top parking lot past the sports fields.
5/5/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Days Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Contact leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: Possible birds include Virginia Rail, raptors, Marsh Wren. Canceled in inclement weather. Pre-registration is required; limit 20.
5/5/19	8:15 AM – 12 PM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot.
5/5/19	7 – 7:45 PM	Chimney Swifts at Dusk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net, and Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net. Description: Bookbindery Chimney in Hampden, but double check the BBC website for changeof venue. If cloudy or a drizzle, come a half hour early. Canceled if raining. Binoculars useful but not necessary.
5/5/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Killens Pond SP, DE	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Description: Meet at the Visitor's Center. There is an $8 entrance fee per car, so car-pooling is advised.
5/5/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com. Description: Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at Carr's Mill Rd parking lot.
5/5/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Izaak Walton League Property	Host: Montgomery Bird Club and Izaak Walton League, B-CC Chapter. For reservations, contact leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517. Description: Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats. Meet at 7 AM at the League's Chapterhouse. Reservations required, limit 12.
5/5/19	6:30 AM – 4 PM	Trip to Susquehanna SP	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net. Description: Prime migration location; possibly 12-15 (or more) warbler species, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers. Take lunch or snacks. Facilities available. Depart Easton Acme at 6:30 AM.
5/7/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
5/8/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Mt. Nebo WMA	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. Description: Connie Skipper will lead this walk thru Mt Nebo including the pond. Carpool from Cumberland: Ollie's parking lot at 7 am.
5/8/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Pangborn Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189. Description: Enjoy birding Pangborn and Fairgrounds Parks. This is one in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. Meet at the pond pavilion.
5/9/19	7 – 11 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Kevin Graff at 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Description: This city park is a gem for a wide number of migrating and resident birds. Meet at Millersville Park & Ride at 7 AM or meet at the Pagoda at 7:30 AM.
5/11/19	All day	Field Trip Delaware Shorebirds: Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com. Description: Carpool leaves from Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton, at 7 AM for a full-day trip. Bring breakfast, lunch and snack, and scope if you have one. Insect repellant and sunscreen strongly recommended.

BIRDING

5/11/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Warbler Walk at Susquehanna State Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Tim Houghton, timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504. Description: Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants, other songbirds as well as water fowl and waders out on the river.
5/11/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Little Bennett Regional Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact leaders Woody and Rae Dubois for time and directions at dengue1@verizon.net. Description: We will be looking for warblers and other migrants on the Wilson Mill and Kingsley Trails. Possible Kentucky Warbler. Limit 10. Reservations required.
5/12/19	All day	Trip to Pocomoke Swamp	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332. Description: Search for migrant and resident songbirds with a focus on wood warblers. Bring lunch, drinks and snacks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am.
5/12/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding in Rock Creek Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Gerry Hawkins, maineusa@comcast.net or 571 277-8406. Description: Near peak time for migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Reservations required.
5/12/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding the Hemlock Gorge Trail	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Matt Lince, mdlince@comcast.net, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only). Description: Fairly easy. Cerulean Warbler possible, warblers, vireos, flycatchers and tanagers. Meet at Mt. Carmel Rd. P&R.
5/12/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
5/12/19	9 – 11 AM	Bird Banding Demo	Host: Audubon Society of Central Maryland. Description: Bird banding demonstration.
5/14/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
5/15/19	7:30 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Pemberton Park	Host: Tri-County Bird Club. Leader Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Look for migrating and summer resident songbirds. Sturdy shoes recommended for walking on dirt trails.'
5/16/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Catoctin Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Shirley Ford, 301-241-3020 or bluebirdlover12@outlook.com. Description: Trip to Catoctin Park and Manahan Road. Meet at Rt. 66 P&R.
5/16/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
5/18/19	All day	Trip to Bombay Hook NWR and Dupont Nature Center	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Dale Murphy at 410-798-6345 or murphy_dale@msn.com. Description: Shorebirds are the main quest. Pack lunch, snacks and water and bring sunblock and bug spray. Meet at 7 AM at Bay 50 or at Bombay Hook at 8:30 AM.
5/18/19	All day	Trip to Bombay Hook NWR and Dupont Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Dale Murphy. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only). Description: Searching for a wide variety of migrating shorebirds. Be prepared for heat and biting insects. Minimal walking. Bring lunch. Telescopes useful. Meet at Nursery Road P&R at 6:45 AM.

5/18/19	7:30 AM – 2 PM	Birding the Worcester County Landings	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: We will look for marsh birds and shorebirds. Bring lunch, snacks and drink. Wear shoes you don't mind getting dirty. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot.
5/18/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
5/18/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, 410-370-0747. Alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443 204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side.
5/18/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com. Description: Explore this leafy city park for a variety of bird species. Meet at 3001 East Drive.
5/19/19	All day	Delaware Bay Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: We will visit the Delaware Bay shore from Mispillion Light to Prime Hook. Bring lunch. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
5/19/19	All day	Trip to Delaware Bayshore	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Tom Corl, 202-215-1684 or tom.corl@gmail.com. Description: Delaware Bayshore including the DuPont Nature Center at Mispillion Light. Bring lunch, drinks & insect repellant. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 am.
5/19/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Pat & Juanita Tate at 410-615-5133 or jpt@earthlink.com. Description: Birders will enjoy trails winding through forests and past grassy fields on a paved path. $6 charge if you don't have a county park sticker.
5/19/19	8 – 11 AM	Birding at Eden Mill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Debbie & Lou Taylor 410-852-9807 or debrataylor11@gmail.com. Description: Variety of habitats. Looking for migrants and nesters. Meet at Visitor parking lot.
5/20/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Mills Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276 or jslilga@wildblue.net. Description: This is one in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Washington County Parks and Recreation. Meet at the pavilion.
5/21/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with coordinator if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
5/22/19	All day	Trip to Bombay Hook NWR and Dupont Nature Center	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Contact Dale Murphy at 410-798-6345 or murphy_dale@msn.com. Description: Shorebirds are the main quest. Pack lunch, snacks and water and bring sunblock and bug spray. Meet at 7 AM at Bay 50 or at Bombay Hook at 8:30 AM.
5/25/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip for Beginners to Courthouse Point Road	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com. Description: Easy walking on mostly level ground. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. Binoculars and enthusiasm are required! Maryland DNR parking permit required for each car. Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton.

Questions? Contact the calendar editor: calendar@mdbirds.org

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

BIRDING

5/25/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding in the Patapsco Scrubland	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Felicia Lovelett, 301-802-1969 or c5nest@gmail.com. Description: We'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Moderate to possibly difficult walking including stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. Meet at 735 River Rd.
5/25/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave
5/25/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Millcreek/ Furnace Bay Paddle Tour	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sue Procell, procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919. Description: Varied bird sightings in these calm waters. Meet at the Stump Point Launch at Perryville Community Park.
5/26/19	All day	Trip to the Delaware Bayshore	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com no later than May 19 to reserve your spot (required). Description: Shorebird hunt along the Delaware Bayshore. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, scope, and money for tolls and dinner. Carpool from Bowie P&R at 7 AM.
5/26/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Tuckahoe and Adkins Arboretum	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com. Description: We will search different wooded areas and upland fields. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM.
5/27/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Hidden Valley and surrounding areas	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood, newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-595. Description: Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking. Meet in the parking lot at the N end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek.
6/01/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip to Woodlawn Wildlife Area	Host: Cecil Bird Club. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net. Description: Woodlawn is a restored landfill. Meet at the Woodlawn Parking Area. Carpooling is encouraged.
6/4/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Prettyboy Reservoir – CCC Trail	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only). Description: We'll look for breeding warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Optional side trip to Red-headed Woodpecker site. Meet at Mt. Carmel Rd. P&R. Canceled if raining.
6/1/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
6/6/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
6/8/19	All day	Grassland Birds of Carroll County	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792. Description: Search for grassland birds and whatever else turns up. Meet at 8 AM at the P&R on Rt 32 just south of Rt 26 in Eldersburg.
6/9/19	All day	Fair Hill NRMA	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Co-leaders Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332, and Bettye Maki, 248-225-0724. Description: Opportunities to observe breeding plumage Bobolinks and other grassland species. Bring lunch, drinks and snacks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM.
6/9/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at City Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Larry Zaleski, 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com. Description: One in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Washington County Parks and Recreation. Meet at the Hager House parking lot.

6/9/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
6/11/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Prettyboy Reservoir – Georges Creek Trail	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896. Description: Look for breeding warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Optional side trip to Red-headed Woodpecker site. Meet at Mt. Carmel Rd. P&R. Canceled if raining.
6/15-16/19	All day	Garrett County Birding	Host: YMOS. Description: 2-Day search for Garrett County breeding birds. We'll be staying at the MOS Carey Run Sanctuary. 7:45 AM meeting in Garrett and return home Sunday afternoon.
6/15-16/19	All day	Overnight Trip to Western Maryland	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690. Description: Search for rare Golden-winged Warblers, Henslow's Sparrow and other specialties.
6/15/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
6/15/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com. Description: Explore this leafy city park for a variety of bird species. Meet at 3001 East Drive.
6/15/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Patuxent North Tract	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Alan and Sue Young, 410-991-8300 or alnyoung@aol.com. Description: Joint trip with Anne Arundel Bird Club. Good spot for breeding birds including Hooded Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. Meet at Mt. Carmel P&R.
6/16/19	6 – 10 PM	Evening trip to Tara Road	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Co-leaders Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu, and George Radcliffe. Description: In search of calling whip-poor-wills, Chuck-wills-widows and possibly an owl or two. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 PM.
6/18/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Prettyboy Reservoir – Shamberger Peninsula Trail	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896. Description: We'll look for breeding warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Optional side trip to Red-headed Woodpecker site. Meet at Mt. Carmel Rd. P&R. Canceled if raining.
6/20/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
6/22/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Pangborn Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Larry Zaleski, 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com. Description: This is one in a series of bird walks co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. Meet at the pond pavilion.
6/29/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave.

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

MEMBER PHOTOS

Top: A Northern Parula photographed at Patapsco Valley State Park in Baltimore County. Photo by Gene Ricks.

Bottom: Anthony VanSchoor captured a lovely Chipping Sparrow.

Submit your photo to *The Yellowthroat*. Visit https://mdbirds.org/publications/the-yellowthroat/ for submission guidelines.

MEMBER PHOTOS

Place Your Announcement in *The Yellowthroat*

Reach members interested in your services by placing an announcement in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. For more information, please contact the Editor: yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Top: This Cape May Warbler was photographed by Gene Ricks at Patterson Park in Baltimore City.

Center: Kristin Trouton snapped this photograph of a Dickcissel in Howard County.

Left: Kurt Schwarz captured this sweet image of a Yellow-throated Warbler in Marriotsville, MD.

Submit your photo to *The Yellowthroat*. Visit https://mdbirds.org/publications/the-yellowthroat/ for submission guidelines.

BIRDING

7/6/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
7/14/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
7/18/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
7/20/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.
7/20/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com. Description: Explore this leafy city park for a variety of bird species. Meet at 3001 East Drive.
7/27/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave.
8/1/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
8/3/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Fran Uhler	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just N of Bowie State U. No reservations needed.
8/7/19	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Evening Canoe Birding Trip at Days Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Kevin Graff. Pre-registration by 7/30 is required - contact Nancy O'Hara, noh529@gmail.com or 443-286-0922. Description: Possible birds include Purple Martins, Marsh Wrens, Blue Grosbeaks, Virginia Rails and both Orioles. Must be at least 12 to participate. Event canceled in inclement weather. Cost $10 per person. Limit 25.
8/10/19	All day	Trip to Delaware Bayshore	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Leaders Marcia Watson and Gene Scarpulla. RSVP to marshwren50@comcast.net no later than 8/7. Description: Focus on migrating shorebirds, waders, and passerines. Bring spotting scope, sunscreen, bug repellant, water, lunch and snacks. Meet at 9 AM at the Visitor Center at Bombay Hook.
8/11/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Boots advisable, telescopes useful.
8/15/19	6 – 8 PM	Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information. Description: Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.
8/17/19	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Governor Bridge	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. Description: Monthly walk. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.

8/17/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club, Audubon and Maryland Zoo. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com. Description: Explore this leafy city park for a variety of bird species. Meet at 3001 East Drive.
8/24/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Birding at Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Audubon. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org. Description: Explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of East Lombard St and Patterson Park Ave
8/27/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Birdig at Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader TBA. Description: First in a series of weekly morning walks to follow the progress of Fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds.
9/1/19	10:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com. Description: Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies. Bring close-focus binoculars. Canceled if raining or overcast. No facilities. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct.

Deadline for application is May 15, 2019

To apply: https://bit.ly/2Gg4JIZ

For more information contact Maren Gimpel: mgimpel2@washcoll.edu

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

MEETINGS

5/7/19	7 - 9 PM	Vollmer Center at Cylburn	Baltimore Bird Club	Kathleen Woods, Wildlife Rehabilitator, will speak on her work at Phoenix Wildlife Center.
5/9/19	7 - 9 PM	Robinson Nature Center	Howard Bird Club	"Mongolia: Birding in the Footsteps of Genghis Khan," by Gail Mackiernan. Info: Mary Lou Clark, 420-465-4061.
5/14/19	7 - 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift, presented by Joan Cwi
5/14/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Heron Point	Kent County Bird Club	Gail MacKiernan will speak on her trip to Madagascar.
5/15/19	7 - 9 PM	Blue Heron Center	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Birding Tierra del Fuego, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, with Lawrence Zoller. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.
5/15/19	7 - 9 PM	Potomac Presbyterian Church	Montgomery Bird Club	Gwen Brewer and George Jett will present "The Southern Pantanal of Brazil: Birds, Mammals, and More".
5/16/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline County Public Library	Caroline County Bird Club	Danny Poet, presenter. "The Best of Danny Poet, Nature Photographer."
5/20/19	6 – 10 PM	MAC Education Center	Tri-county Bird Club	"Highlights of Southern African Wildlife" presented by Mark Abdy. Annual dinner meeting. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, $2 towards paper products and a contribution to the raffle table. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.
5/28/19	7 - 9 PM	Mt. Aetna Nature Center	Washington County Bird Club	Bring short presentations, photos, stories, or anything of interest to share for the always-popular Members Night. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information.
5/31 – 6/2/19	All day	Washington College	MOS Convention	Check out the convention web site at www.mosconvention.org
6/6/19	6 – 9 PM	Pinecliff Park	Frederick Bird Club	Annual Picnic. Bring binoculars, a dish to share, plate, utensils and drink. We'll do some birding after dinner.
6/8/19	10 AM – 12 PM	TBD	MOS Board Meeting	Host: Frederick Bird Club
6/8/19	12:30 – 3:30 PM	Oregon Ridge Park, Lake Pavilion	Baltimore Bird Club	The BBC Picnic will be at Oregon Ridge Park in Hunt Valley this year. Coordinator Kevin Graff keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or (text only) 410-967-5896 or call Peter Lev at 410-823-2962.

6/8/19	5 – 8 PM	Black Hill Regional Park	Montgomery Bird Club	Annual Club Picnic with birdwalk, Black Hill RP, picnic area H. Bring a dish to share. BBQ items are offered by the Club.
6/11/19	7 - 9 PM	College Park Airport Operations Building	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Members' Night. Members who wish to present must contact Marcia Watson at marshwren50@comcast.net no later than June 4 so that she can organize the agenda.
6/11/19	TBD	TBD	Talbot Bird Club	Fall Planning Meeting. Tentative Date. Potluck Dinner, hosts TBD
6/23/19	4 – 9 PM	Fort Frederick SP	Washington County Bird Club	Picnic. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Follow the signs to the picnic pavilion/play ground area. Contact Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454 or amp8185@aol.com for additional information.
6/29/19	1 – 6 PM	Amy Hoffman's house	Carroll County Bird Club	Summer Picnic. Enjoy good food and good company. Contact Amy Hoffman at 410-549-3598 if you plan on attending and tell her what food item you will be be bringing.
7/12/19	TBD	Anita Leight's house	Harford Bird Club	Summer Social followed by "A Living History: Rachel Carson" performed by Colleen Webster.
8/25/2019	4 – 9 PM	Camp Harding Park	Washington County Bird Club	Picnic. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Contact Anna Hutzell, 301-797-8454 or amp8185@aol.com for additional information.
TBD	TBD	Eastern Neck NWR	Kent County Bird Club	Annual Club Picnic

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Project Coordinator for 3rd MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 2020 – 2024
Full time position for ca. 5 1/2 years.
Salaried with benefits
Oversee county coordinators, liaise with Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and other duties.
Needs to be familiar with eBird, knowledgeable about Maryland's birds, and a good communicator.
Approximate start date: July 1, 2019.
For questions or details contact Robin Todd at robintodd1948@gmail.com or 410-491-5333.

COUNTS

2019 May Bird Counts in Maryland

The May Count this year will be officially held on Saturday, May 11, with several additional counts on May 4, 5 and 12. This will mark the 57th consecutive year that Maryland birders have conducted this survey of the bird populations in the state in the first half of May.

Please join us in the field during May for great birding!

Statewide Coordinator: Marilyn Veek, mveekmos@yahoo.com.

5/4/19	Dorchester 103rd May Count	Compiler Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com or 215-248-4120
5/5/19	Fred Archibald May Count	Meet at Sanctuary at 6 AM. Contact David Smith, 410-549-7082
5/11/19	Allegany May Count	Compiler J. B. Churchill, jchurchi@gmail.com
5/11/19	Anne Arundel May Count	Coordinator Dotty Mumford, 443-214-5154 or dottymum@comcast.net
5/11/19	Baltimore May Count	Compilers are Nancy O'Hara (noh539@gmail.com) and Kevin Graff (keywestsstyle2001@gmail.com)
5/11/19	Calvert May Count	Compiler is Sherman Suter, sjsuter29@verizon.net, 410-586-1073 or 703-768-5922
5/11/19	Caroline May Count	Contact Debby Bennett at 410-829-4952 or dabennett1996@gmail.com for more information
5/11/19	Carroll May Count	Contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716
5/11/19	Charles May Count	Compiler is Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097
5/11/19	Dorchester 104th May Count	Compiler Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com or 215-248-4120
5/11/19	Frederick May Count	Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082
5/11/19	Garrett May Count	Compiler Karl Schwalm, Karlandsharon@hotmail.com
5/11/19	Howard May Count	Compiler Kevin Heffernan, kjheff122@gmail.com or 443-668-7618
5/11/19	Kent May Count	Contact Nancy Martin and Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com
5/11/19	Montgomery May Count	Compiler Diane Ford, dmford455@yahoo.com.
5/11/19	Patuxent/PGAS May Count	Contact the county compiler Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com
5/11/19	Somerset May Count	Compiler Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net or 443-783-1268
5/11/19	St. Mary's May Count	Compiler J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.com
5/11/19	Talbot May Count	Contact Ron Ketter, 410-820-6165 or rgketter@gmail.com
5/11/19	Washington May Count	Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696
5/11/19	Wicomico May Count	Compiler Ellen Lawler, 410-546-9056 or emlawler534@comcast.net
5/11/19	Worcester May Count	Compiler Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com
5/12/19	Audrey Carroll May Count	Meet at Sanctuary at 6 AM. Coordinator David Smith, 410-549-7082

Questions? Contact the calendar editor: calendar@mdbirds.org

For more details about an event listed in the MOS Calendar, please visit: https://mdbirds.org/calendar/.

Bird With MOS

MOS is launching a new member benefit: birding trips to some of the great hotspots in the Americas. First up is **Cuba** from November 9 to 16, 2019. We'll start in Havana and from there explore pristine protected areas, including La Güira National Park, Las Terrazas Biosphere Reserve, and several sites within Zapata Swamp, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This trip is limited to 12 participants and cost $3,065 per person plus airfare. Single room supplement is $495. For further details and to sign up visit Holbrook Travel https://bit.ly/2GeEIuZ.

There are several other great trips on the calendar for the spring of 2020.

'Best of Trinidad' is scheduled for April 21-28, 2020. MOS members will spend 5 nights at Asa Wright Nature Centre, located in a lush 2,000-acre tract of rainforest high in the Arima Valley, followed by 2 nights at Mt. Plaisir Lodge in search of the Trinidad Piping-guan and nesting Leatherback turtles. Scarlet Ibis, hummers, honeycreepers, oil birds, tanagers…the potential to add to your life list is huge. Trip is limited to 10 participants and the cost is $2150/per person, double occupancy, $2450 per person, single. Airfare is extra. Contact Maryanne.Dolan@gmail.com for details and to sign up.

Costa Rica is next on the travel calendar. From March 17 to 25, 2020, we will join Mario Cordoba of Crescentia Expeditions for a 9-day tour of **Central Costa Rica** including the Central Valley, Caribbean Foothills, Central Pacific Transitional Pacific Forest, and the Central & Southern Highlands. Mario has introduced many Maryland birders to the wonders of Costa Rica. Everyone comes back with happy memories and amazing life lists. Trip is limited to 10 people and cost $1900 for double occupancy, with a $500 single supplement. Airfare is not included.

Contact Kevin Graff keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or Maryanne.Dolan@gmail.com for details and to sign up.

Detailed itineraries and other information for all of these trips can be found on the MOS webpage www.mdbirds.org

MOS 75th Anniversary in 2020

Volunteers Wanted for Planning Committee

MOS will celebrate its 75th Anniversary next year. A committee is forming to plan an exciting slate of events to mark this milestone. If interested in participating, please send an email to Marcia Watson at: marshwren50@comcast.net.

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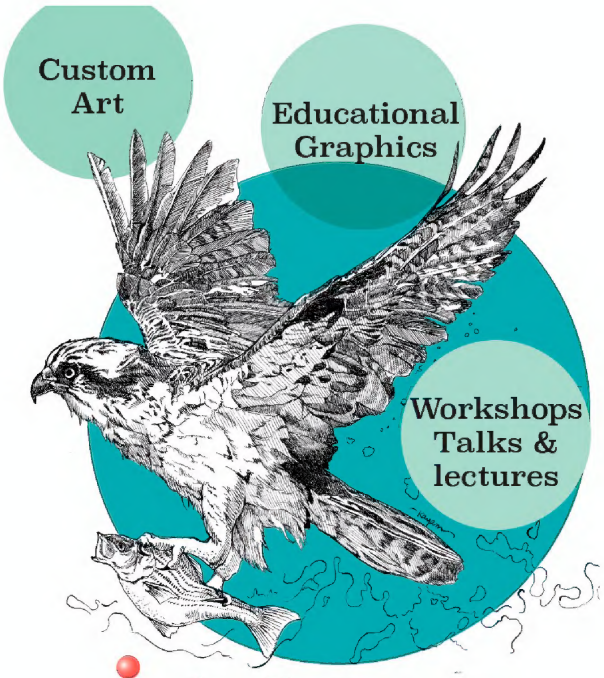

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